MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Four hundred and fifty-four have actually been employed. The remaining 956 have been recommended by the Soldiers' Committee.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): How many hands have been employed during the last 6 months?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): 1 claim notice.

Statistics re. Encroachments on Poramboke Lands in certain Taluks in the Kottayam Division.

107. MR. C. J. CURIEN (*Kottayam*): Will the Government be pleased to state the basis on which a fine of Rs. 200 is proposed to be inflicted in encroachment cases under the Land Conservancy Regulation—whether it is according to the difference in the area encroached upon or for each case, no regard being had to the extent encroached upon?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The fine of Rs. 200 provided under section 6 of the Land Conservancy Regulation is the maximum fine that can be inflicted in a single case of encroachment dealt with under the Regulation. The amount of fine to be imposed in each particular case is left to the discretion of the deciding officer in accordance with the merits of the case and is not necessarily dependent on the area encroached upon. Clause (ii) of rule 7 of the rules under the Land Conservancy Regulation (as amended by notification Dis. No 814 of 1922/Revenue, dated the 18th July, 1922), provides that 'no fine need be imposed in a case' of occupation 'which is considered to be unobjectionable by the Division Peishkar or other authorised officer', and that 'the fine to be imposed in an objectionable case should be really deterrent'. Clause (iii) of rule 9 also enjoins that, while dealing with objectionable occupations, the 'officers acting under the Regulation should exercise tact and discretion and should avoid unnecessary severity.'

Premises for the Kottayam Vernacular Middle School for Girls.

108. MR. C. J. CURIEN (*Kottayam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(i) whether the Government are aware that the vernacular middle school for girls at Kottayam has not an inch of ground for its premises; and

(ii) whether the headmaster has reported about the inconvenience experienced by the pupils and the staff for want of premises for the school, and, if so, the steps taken on his report?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(i) The answer is in the affirmative.

(ii) Yes. The matter is under correspondence.

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